



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 29, 1998

### **S. 1403**

### **National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 1998**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on May 13, 1998*

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1403 would cost the federal government less than \$500,000 annually beginning in fiscal year 1999. Because the bill could increase direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates, however, that any such effects would be negligible. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1403 would create two programs related to historic lighthouses. The first of these would be a program to preserve national historic lighthouses, under which the National Park Service (NPS) would collect information about such facilities and would support related education and research projects. The second would be a process under which the federal government—acting through the NPS and the General Services Administration (GSA)—would convey or sell surplus lighthouses to nonfederal entities. The bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary to carry out these programs. In addition, proceeds from any sales of lighthouses under the bill could be spent without further appropriation for the NPS's national maritime heritage grant program. Under existing law, proceeds from sales of property such as lighthouses are treated as offsetting receipts and cannot be spent without appropriation action.

The NPS, GSA, and other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Coast Guard, already perform many of the duties that would be required by S. 1403, including both preserving historic lighthouses and disposing of surplus stations. Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend less than \$500,000 annually in appropriated funds to carry out the more formal preservation program required by this legislation and to process lighthouse conveyances under the new disposal process.

CBO estimates that any effect on direct spending would be insignificant because the government would be as unlikely to sell any lighthouses under this legislation as it is under

existing authorities. Entities eligible to receive title to historic lighthouses under this bill would include state and local agencies. Participation by such agencies and any related costs would be voluntary on their part.

The CBO staff contacts are Deborah Reis (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.